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WHO/FAO Expert Report on Diet and Chronic Disease Technical Report Series No. 916, 2003

This report, released April 23, 2003, identifies new recommendations on diet and physical activity to tackle the rapidly increasing burden of chronic diseases worldwide. The report is a critical science-based contribution to development of a global strategy aimed at reducing cardiovascular diseases, sever1 forms of cancer (including oral cancer), diabetes, obesity, osteoporosis, and dental diseases such as dental caries and dental erosion. Advice is given on ways of changing daily nutritional intake by reducing energy-rich foods high in saturated fat and sugar, cutting the amount of salt in the diet, increasing the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables in the diet, and undertaking phsical activity every day. As regards dental diseases, it is emphasized that dental caries is preventable by limiting the frequency and amount of sugars and by appropriate exposure to fluoride. Erosion of teeth by dietary acids in beverages may lead to tooth destruction and the consumptions of sugary soft drinks should be reduced. It is important that developing countries currently having low consumption of free sugars do not increase consumption levels. For countries with high consumption levels in addition to high incidence of dental caries, it is recommended that national health authorities formulate country- and community-specific goals to reduce the amount of free sugars aiming toward the recommended maximum of no more than 10% of energy intake. The frequency of consumption of foods and/or drinks containing free sugars should be limited to a maximum of four times per day. The report is only the first step in a process that includes consultations with governments as well as other public and private sector stakeholders in all geographical regions.

The report is available from the WHO Web site: http://www.whoj.int/hpr/nutrition/ExpertConsultationGE.htm.

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DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE PROGRAM

The University of Iowa College of Dentistry's Department of Preventive and Community Dentistry invites applications for its 2-year MS degree program in dental public health for the academic year beginning August 2004. The program is accredited by the American Dental Association and dentists who complete the program meet the educational requirements for board certification by the American Board of Dental Public Health (i.e., no additional residency program is required). Dental hygienists are also invited to apply (although ineligible for board certification). Courses are in the areas of literature review, research design, biostatitistics, epidemiology, statistical computing, health care organization, prevention, administration, financing, health behavior and promotion, teaching methods, and field training. A thesis involving original research is required. Applicants must generally be prepared to pay all their own costs (tuition, living expenses, etc.) during the first year. However, very limited financial assistance is occasionally available, after matriculation, possibly in the form of a 25% research assistantship that confers in-state tuition eligibility. During the second year only, a dental public health specialty training grant can support trainees (tuition/fees, field training expenses, professional meeting travel, and stipend) who are US citizens/permanent residents. International applicants must take the TOEFL and GRE and submit an application by October 31. US/Canadian applicants must take the GRE and can be considered thereafter.

For additional information, please contact Dr. Steven Levy, Graduate Program Director, N330 DSB, College of Dentistry, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242; (319) 335-7185 (phone); (319) 335/7187 (FAX). E-mail: steven-levy@uiowa.edu.

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